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[Here follow certain details connected with the Expeditions of Messrs. Landsborough and Walker, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate after the full abstracts of their journals already given.]

Captain Norman informs me that the mouths of the Rivers Albert and Flinders, like those of most other rivers in Australia, are obstructed by bars, on which there are only 4 or 5 feet of water at low tide, with from 8 to 12 feet rise and fall. Both these rivers, however, are noble streams, navigable for above 30 miles for vessels of considerable burden. In all human probability English settlements will arise on their banks at no distant period, and will form the outlets of the rich pastoral and agricultural country of the neighbouring interior. The climate of this district, though very warm, appears to be very healthy.

Captain Norman advises me again to press on Her Majesty's Government the urgent necessity which exists, in the interests of humanity and of the general commerce of the empire at large, for the formation of a settlement at Cape York, and for the completion of the survey of the north-eastern coast of Australia by means of a small steamer. But I have addressed your Grace at length respecting these two undertakings in several previous despatches, stating at the same time how liberally the Government of Queensland is ready to contribute towards the expenses of both.

Extracts from a Despatch of SIR G. BOWEN to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, dated 12th April, 1862.

It has been suggested that, inasmuch as the rainfall on the north-eastern coast of Australia occurs at a season when the territory skirting the southern portion of the Gulf of Carpentaria generally appears to suffer from drought, it is probable that a system of migratory settlement may be adopted, with advantage to the flocks and herds, which will eventually occupy both regions. A belt of table-land would seem to stretch from east to west, between the 18th and 19th parallels of south latitude, and in the mountain barrier which separates it from the plains of the seaboard, are the sources of most of the affluents of the Albert, Nicholson, Flinders, and of the other rivers flowing into the Gulf. Messrs. Burke and Wills, as well as Mr. Landsborough, crossed this table-land, and were much struck with the beauty of its landscape, the richness of its vegetation, the amenity of its climate, and the indications which it presents of the existence of mineral wealth. Although it is within the tropics, its elevation is sufficient to ensure a mild temperature; while the peculiar formation of the country, with deep basins surrounded by chains of hills, would render compara-

tively easy the construction of reservoirs to hold the great annual fall of rain. On the whole, this region holds out the promise of being, ere long, overspread by that tide of population which is gradually creeping up the eastern seaboard of Queensland, and which will naturally flow round towards the Gulf, when it reaches the York Peninsula.

The projected establishment of a settlement at Cape York, and the proposed temporary annexation to Queensland of the territory sketched above, will vastly accelerate its colonization, by securing to the intending settlers the advantages of certain communication, of armed protection, and of regular civil government.

III.—*Narrative of a Journey from Tientsin to Moukden in Manchuria in July, 1861.* By A. MICHIE, Esq., F.R.G.S.

Read, December 8, 1862.

July 6.—Leaving Tientsin and crossing the Pei-ho, the first stage of our journey led through a belt of well-watered ground, bearing thriving crops of millet, beans, and hemp. The road was good; and the tall millet on either side kept off the wind and the dust which is the curse of these plains.

July 7.—Our second stage led us through a bleak country, with poor thin crops, and almost without inhabitants. The people who live in the few scattered villages we saw were evidently pinched for water, for we noticed numerous wells dug by the road-side, all of which were dry.

The country improved as we approached the Peh-tang river, and we found ourselves crossing another belt of well-cultivated ground, watered by canals from the river. We were ferried across the river at a place called Chang-wa-kow, 45 miles by the road from Tientsin and 40 in a direct line from the sea.

Beyond the Peh-tang, the country is still more fertile, villages becoming numerous.

July 8.—Our route now took a more easterly direction. From Fung-tai we proceeded by very bad roads, 60 li, to Hang-chung, a small village apparently off the main road. Here we got ice for the first and last time after leaving Tientsin. The country continues fertile with a good deal of wood.

From Hang-chung we proceeded towards Kai-ping (see map); country well wooded, and the road leading through long avenues of fine old willow-trees. Vines and fruit-trees were also seen to-day, and we observed a good deal of indigo and tobacco under cultivation.

Forded the Taou river at the town of Tang-yo, where there